

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 2, 2009 2:35 pm (ChST)

PHICC Release No.09-016

FDA and FTC Warn Public of Fraudulent H1N1 Influenza Products
Offending web sites and illegal activity targeted for action

To date, Guam has no probable or confirmed cases of H1N1.

As the U.S. Centers for Disease and Control and Prevention (CDC) continues to monitor the situation regarding the 2009 H1N1 influenza outbreak, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) is alerting the public to be wary of Internet sites and other promotions for products that claim to diagnose, prevent, mitigate, treat or cure the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus. FDA is also advising operators of offending web sites that they must take prompt action to correct and/or remove promotions of these fraudulent products or face enforcement action.

According to the FDA, *“Consumers who purchase products to treat the novel 2009 H1N1 virus that are not approved, cleared or authorized by the FDA for the treatment or prevention of influenza risk their health and the health of their families,”* said Michael Chappell, acting FDA Associate Commissioner for Regulatory Affairs.

The FDA says in its press release that many of these deceptive products are being sold via the internet through illegitimate web sites. These fraudulent products can include dietary supplements, food products, or even products purporting to be drugs, devices or vaccines. Such fraudulent products will not prevent the transmission of the virus or offer effective treatments against infections caused by the H1N1 influenza virus.

To view the FDA press release in its entirety, please visit their website at www.fda.gov